



**U. S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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**NEW YORK MAN GUILTY OF PASSPORT FRAUD**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE** – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced that SUNDAY WILLIAMS, 47, of 2108 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY, pleaded guilty to making false statements on a passport application. WILLIAMS was indicted by a grand jury in the District of New Hampshire in August of 2004, after agents of the U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Security Service uncovered the fraud at the National Passport Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

WILLIAMS, a Nigerian citizen, pleaded guilty to willfully and knowingly making false statements to the State Department in a passport application in order to fraudulently obtain a United States passport. In May, 2001, WILLIAMS submitted a passport application in which he claimed that he was born in Brooklyn, New York.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "Identity fraud is a matter of grave concern. My office will continue to work with federal, state and local authorities in an effort to do everything possible to make sure that passports are not issued to persons who misrepresent their citizenship or falsify passport applications. Individuals who submit false information or fraudulently pose as citizens in order to fraudulently obtain a United States passport will be investigated and prosecuted."

This case resulted from an ongoing initiative known as "Operation Checkmate" which is designed to identify false passport applications that are submitted for adjudication to the National Passport Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The National Passport Center processes and adjudicates approximately two million applications each year, or one quarter of all United States passport applications. Operation Checkmate is a joint initiative of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Hampshire, the U.S. Department of State, Diplomatic Security Service, the Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General and the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

WILLIAMS's sentencing hearing was set by U.S. District Judge Steven J. McAuliffe for January 14, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. Assistant U. S. Attorney Alfred Rubega is prosecuting this case.